

ABSTRACT

Protective package for an elongated medical device, comprises a protective sheath including a lumen sized to receive a body of the elongated medical device, wherein a first end of the sheath is adapted to receive a distal end of the elongated medical device and a second end of the sheath is adapted to receive a proximal end of the elongated medical device and a hydration opening disposed between the first and second ends of the sheath. In addition, a method of packaging a medical catheter, comprises the steps of providing a substantially tubular enclosure having a lumen corresponding in inner diameter and length to dimensions of a catheter to be received therein and inserting a catheter into the lumen in combination with the steps of providing a hydration opening of the tubular enclosure in fluid communication with the lumen, the hydration opening directing a hydrating fluid in desired proportions toward proximal and distal ends of the catheter and providing a flushing adapter for connecting the hydration opening to a source of hydrating fluid.